SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM: Usually, Prohibition Committee meetings are held at the district headquarters. If the meetings are held in other places, it will be possible for the members of the committee to address public meetings and educate the people in the cause of prohibition, after the committee meetings are over. Therefore will the Government issue instructions for the holding of the Prohibition Committee meetings in such places?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN: I will examine that suggestion.

(Question Nos. 2707 and 2708 answered together.)

*Prohibition offences*

* 2707 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of persons arrested for Prohibition offences in the State during the year 1954–55 and the number of women offenders;

(*b*) the percentages of increase in Prohibition crime in 1954–55 as compared with that of the previous two years; and

(*c*) the annual expenditure incurred in enforcing the Prohibition Act and the cost of maintenance of Prohibition Department?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN: (*a*) 1,03,796 and 7,360 respectively.

(*b*) 21.5 per cent and 20 per cent increase, as compared with Prohibition offences in 1952–53 and 1953–54, respectively; and

(*c*) Rs. 37·79 lakhs during 1954–55. This excludes the expenditure incurred in the Police Prohibition districts and also in the Excise Prohibition districts transferred to the Police department from 3rd January to 31st March 1955 for which separate figures are not available.

* 2708 *Q.*—SRI M. S. MOGRAL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of persons charge-sheeted for offences under the Prohibition Act in the years 1953–54 and 1954–55 in South Kanara district; and

(*b*) the number convicted.

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN: (*a*) The number of persons charge-sheeted in 1953–54 and 1954–55 is 2,359 and 4,126 respectively.

(*b*) The number of persons convicted in 1953–54 and 1954–55 is 1,929 and 3,171, respectively.